

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 DOTE-00 L-03 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 H-01 /060 W
-----055377 141705Z /41
O 141648Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3093

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DEPT PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: RENEWAL

REF: STATE 150152

1. SCICOUNS PRESENTED JUNE 14 TO AYKAZYAN AND METAL'NIKOV, SCST, TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT PER REFTEL. AYKAZYAN STATED SOVIETS STILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTIES WITH PROPOSED TWO YEAR EXTENSION TO WHICH SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT U.S. POSITION ON TERM OF EXTENSION WAS VERY FIRM. AYKAZYAN THEN SAID THAT A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR POSITIONS MIGHT BE FOUND BY MAKING THE TWO YEAR EXTENSION AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS. HE SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLE 7 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE U.S. TEXT BE AMENDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THIS AGREEMENT AS MODIFIED AND EXTENDED WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL JUNE 19, 1980. THE AGREEMENT WILL BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEAR PERIOD UNLESS ONE PARTY NOTIFIES THE OTHER OF THE TERMINATION THEREOF NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO ITS EXPIRATION." AYKAZYAN SAID THAT THIS COMPROMISE WAS
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NOT ONLY HIS PERSONAL IDEA, BUT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT FULLY CLEARED. AYKAZYAN DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE REST OF THE PROPOSED U.S. TEXT.

AYKAZYAN STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH MFA TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION THE QUESTION OF RENEWAL OR EXTENSION

OF THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT AFTER JUNE 19, IN THE EVENT THAT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE MODALITIES NOT BE REACHED AT THE DATE OF TERMINATION. HE SAID MFA SEES NO DIFFICULTIES IN RENEWAL OR EXTENSION AFTER JUNE 19 PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. SIDE AGREES. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. AYKAZYAN AND METAL'NIKOV COMMENTED AT LENGTH ABOUT SOVIET EXPECTATION THAT FORMAL RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING A VISIT OF SECRETARY ADAMS TO THE SOVIET UNION LATER THIS YEAR. THEY SAID THE SOVIET SIDE HAD EXPECTED THAT THE U.S. WOULD PROPOSE AN INTERIM EXTENSION WITHOUT CHANGE UNTIL THE ADAMS VISIT. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT TYING THE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT TO A POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY ADAMS WOULD ENORMOUSLY COMPLICATE MATTERS AND RISK HAVING NO EXTENSION AT ALL. AYKAZYAN COMMENTED THAT HE PERSONALLY PREFERRED THE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE AS SUGGESTED REFTEL.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A TWO YEAR EXTENSION PLUS A THREE YEAR AUTOMATIC RENEWAL IS A COMPROMISE WITH WHICH THE U.S. CAN LIVE, PROVIDED THAT THE SOVIETS ACCEPT THE REST OF THE TEXT OF THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE WITHOUT CHANGE. WE HAVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE COMPROMISE OFFERED BY AYKAZYAN IS A FACE SAVING DEVICE FOR SCST WHICH CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE LEADERSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS SUBSTANTIALLY A FIVE YEAR RENEWAL. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT AND DOT GUIDANCE REQUESTED ASAP. SCICOUNS HAS APPOINTMENT WITH AYKAZYAN JUNE 15 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF RENEWAL. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW13686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780248-0894
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780661/aaaacabw.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1723289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 150152
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2358617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: RENEWAL
TAGS: ETRN, TGEN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1723289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014